

education award and others use it several times a year.

*Average Time Per Response:* Total of 5 minutes (one half minute for the AmeriCorps member's section and 4½ minutes for the school or lender).

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 5,750 hours.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* None.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):* None.

#### *Description*

After completing a period of national and community service, the AmeriCorps member receives an education award that can be used to pay against qualified student loans or pay for current post secondary educational expenses. The Voucher and Payment Request Form is the document that a member uses to access his or her account in the National Service Trust.

The form serves three purposes: (1) The AmeriCorps member uses it to request and authorize a specific payment to be made from his or her account, (2) the school or loan company uses it to indicate the amount for which the individual is eligible, and (3) the school or loan company and member both certify that the payment meets various legislative requirements. When the Corporation receives a voucher, it is processed and the U.S. Treasury issues a payment to the loan holder or school on behalf of the AmeriCorps member.

The form was first designed and some variation of it has been in use since the summer of 1994. We are proposing revisions to clarify certain sections of the existing form and to include terminology included in recent legislative changes. The changes impose no additional burden. The legislated change in terminology modifies the definition of loans "made directly to the student. \* \* \*" to loans "made, insured, or guaranteed directly to the student. \* \* \*"

Modifications to Section A clarify instructions to the member on filling out that portion of the Voucher, especially the dollar amount the member requests and authorizes, and includes space to indicate the disbursement period. Similarly, modifications to Section B clarify information provided to loan holders and educational institutions, particularly in regard to stating the dollar amount for educational expenses.

The Corporation seeks to continue using this particular form, albeit in a revised version. The current form is due to expire 09/2004.

#### *Analysis of Comments Received During the Public Comment Period*

One comment was received from an educational institution. It suggested the member indicate the disbursement period for the requested payment on the form so that the school would not need to contact the student for that information. Another person commented on the reference to "an eligible program", which he found unclear. Both comments were incorporated into the revised form.

Dated: August 30, 2004.

**Ruben Wiley,**

*Manager, National Service Trust.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### **Contract Financing: Performance-Based Payments**

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP) is currently conducting an internal assessment regarding the use of performance-based payments as a method of financing for DoD contracts. As part of this assessment, DPAP would like to hear the views of interested parties on what they believe are potential areas for improving DoD's use of performance-based payments.

**DATES:** Submit written comments to the address shown below on or before October 25, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to: Office of the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Policy Directorate, ATTN: Mr. David Capitano, Room 3C838, 3000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3000. Comments may also be submitted by fax at (703) 614-0719 (ATTN: Mr. David Capitano), or by e-mail at [david.capitano@osd.mil](mailto:david.capitano@osd.mil).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. David Capitano, DPAP Policy Directorate, by telephone at (703) 847-7486, or by e-mail at [david.capitano@osd.mil](mailto:david.capitano@osd.mil).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Government policy is that performance-based payments are the preferred form of contract financing. In furtherance of this policy, the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy is soliciting public input regarding actions (policy changes, training, etc.) DoD should undertake to—

1. Increase the use of performance-based payments as the method of contract financing on DoD contracts (e.g., what should be done to increase the number of contracts that utilize performance-based payments); and

2. Improve the efficiency of performance-based payments when used on DoD contracts (e.g., what should be done to improve the use of performance-based payments on those contracts that provide for such contract financing).

It would be helpful, but not required, if respondents could also provide—

1. A brief summary of their experience in using performance-based payments on DoD contracts; and

2. What they believe to be the most important advantages and disadvantages that performance-based payments have with respect to progress payments.

**Michele P. Peterson,**

*Executive Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations Council.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**[OMB Control Number 0704-0255]**

### **Information Collection Requirement; Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Construction and Architect-Engineer Contracts**

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments regarding a proposed extension of an approved information collection requirement.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), DoD announces the proposed extension of a public information collection requirement and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. DoD invites comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of DoD, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved this information collection requirement for use through